

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 03709 241128Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 071810

R 240924Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1595

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3709

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, XF, RP

SUBJECT: GOP PUBLICIZES RENEWED REBEL DEMANDS

REF MANILA 3573

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICIZED MONTH-OLD (FEB. 20) MESSAGE FROM MNLF LEADERS SAYING (IN EFFECT) THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN RESUMING JIDDAH TALKS IN APRIL UNLESS GOP PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTS MNLF DEMANDS FOR AN "AUTONOMOUS STATE". ACCORDING INDIGNANT PRESS COVERAGE, CABINET IS MEETING TODAY (MARCH 24) TO CONSIDER MNLF DEMANDS WHICH WERE CONVEYED BY ISLAMIC SECRETARY GENERAL AL TOHAMY IN LETTER DATED MARCH 19. PRESS REPORTS HAVE ALREADY STATED THAT RENEWED TALKS PROBABLY "DOOMED". MEANWHILE, IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, GOP LEADERS ARE CLAIMING THAT MILITARY SITUATION HAS CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED AND SUGGESTING THAT NUR MISUARI MAY BE LOSING HIS GRIP OVER LOCAL LEADERS. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH OPTIMISM. ACTIVITIES OF BOTH SIDES PROBABLY AIMED AT INFLUENCING CAIRO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 03709 241128Z

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN MAY AND UNTIL THAT CONCLUDED NO REAL

NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY ANYWAY. UNFORTUNATELY RENEWED PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON MNLF INTRANSIGENCE LINKED TO EXTREME "AUTONOMY" CONCEPT MAY MAKE IT HARDER FOR GOP SERIOUSLY TO CONSIDER MORE RATIONAL AUTONOMY PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY NON-REBELS.
END SUMMARY.

1. GOP HAS PUBLICIZED MONTH-OLD MESSAGE FROM MNLF (RELAYED BY ISLAMIC SEC GEN AL TOHAMY) REPEATING HARD LINE ORIGINALLY SET FORTH AT JIDDAH TALKS IN JANUARY. (AL TOHAMY LETTER SAID MNLF DEMANDS WERE CONTAINED IN LETTER DATED FEB. 20 WHICH HE NOTED WAS IMMEDIATELY TRANSMITTED (MARCH 19) TO PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY MNLF LETTER TOOK A MONTH TO REACH AL TOHAMY.)

2. ACCORDING AL TOHAMY, MNLF "HIGHLY SCEPTICAL" THAT RENEWED TALKS COULD LEAD TO ANYTHING EXCEPT ANOTHER "FIASCO". MNLF THEREFORE STRONGLY SUGGESTING THAT RESUMPTION OF TALKS BE MADE CONDITIONAL ON THREE POINTS:

1) THAT GOP MAKE PRIOR PUBLIC DECLARATION IT IS AGREEABLE TO MEET MNLF DEMAND FOR AUTONOMOUS BANGSA MORO STATE EMBRACING WHOLE OF MINDANAO, SULU, BASILAN AND PALAWAN AS PUT FORWARD IN FOUR-POINT PROPOSAL AT JIDDAH.

2) THAT GOP PANEL AT RENEWED TALKS BE EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS FULLY MNLF DEMANDS, AND

3) THAT PHILIPPINE PANEL BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE FORMAL COMMITMENTS BINDING ON GOP.

FINALLY, "UNLESS THE FOREGOING CONDITIONS ARE MET BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) IS DECIDED NOT TO SEND ANY REPRESENTATIVE TO JIDDAH FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS NEXT APRIL."

2. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT CABINET MEETING BEING HELD TODAY (MARCH 24) TO DISCUSS MNLF DEMANDS. PREDICTABLY PRESS IS CASTIGATING DEMANDS AS "ARROGANT" AND TYPICAL HEADLINE IN MARCH 22 BULLETIN TODAY READ "MORO FRONT LEADER DOOMS PEACE TALKS." AT SAME TIME GOVERNMENT IS RELEASING VOLUME OF NEWS ON RECENT ALLEGED MILITARY SUCCESSES IN SOUTH MOST SPECTACULAR OF WHICH IS "VICTORY" ON BASILAN IN WHICH 200 REBELS REPORTEDLY KILLED AND SEVERAL IMPORTANT REBEL LEADERS SAID TO HAVE SURRENDERED. ACCORDING DAILY EXPRESS, SOWESCOM COMMANDER ADMIRAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 03709 241128Z

ESPALDON SAID LOCAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT NUR MISUARI AND OTHER MNLF LEADERS LIVING IN "LUXURIOUS SELF-EXILE" ABROAD ARE LOSING GRIP ON LOCAL FOLLOWING.

3. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED REPORTS OF MILITARY PROGRESS IN MINDANAO AND SPECULATION THAT NUR MISUARI IS ON THE SKIDS SHOULD OF COURSE BE VIEWED WITH SCEPTICISM. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE (IF ANY) OF JIDDAH TALKS, AS NOTED

REFTEL GOP MAY HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO DELAY THEM INDEFINITELY EVEN BEFORE THIS LATEST (BUT DATED) EVIDENCE OF MNLF INTRANSIGENCE RECEIVED. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF BOTH GOP AND MNLF WOULD SUGGEST THAT MAIN FOCUS OF CURRENT POSTURING IS CAIRO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN MAY, AND UNTIL THAT CONCLUDED, NO REAL NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY ANYWAY.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, RENEWED PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON MNLF HARD LINE LINKED TO EXTREME CONCEPT OF AUTONOMOUS STATE WILL MAKE IT NO EASIER FOR GOP TO GIVE SERIOUS BEHIND-SCENES ATTENTION TO MORE RATIONAL AUTONOMY PROPOSALS PROPOSED BY NON-REBELS.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, NEGOTIATIONS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA03709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750102-0092
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750322/aaaaatvi.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 3573
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP PUBLICIZES RENEWED REBEL DEMANDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, XF, RP, MNLF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006